

The Great War—1490th Day

Germans are hurrying eastward, leaving behind only pockets of machine gunners, and even resistance from these is gradually melting away.

British Are "Cleaning Up"

Strong British forces are now fighting their way down the Hindenburg line itself and are cleaning it up as they go.

While the British were fighting their way further forward well inside the Drocourt-Quantin line to-day, an attack was launched just to the south, where a strong British force is driving ahead on the northern reaches of the Hindenburg line proper. Again there has been furious fighting, thousands of prisoners have been taken and the enemy has suffered terrific losses.

The Hun has tasted disaster in the Drocourt line battle, and now his disorganized and badly depleted forces are working fast to prevent an even greater catastrophe overtaking them.

Are Near Canal du Nord

The British are rapidly approaching and are close to the Canal du Nord, the territory behind which is even now under heavy fire from many British cannons.

The foe knows well that this movement contains a grave menace to some of his forces, and orders apparently have been given to get them out with all haste. The Canal du Nord, where the Germans are retreating, is simply a canal under construction and contains no water. It is like a railroad tunnel with the top off. It is 80 feet across and 60 feet deep, with its sides for the most part granite-walled, sloping slightly inward toward the bottom. There may be as hard fighting here as there was last year.

Lowlands Are Flooded

It was early in the morning, after a night in which a battle of the most stubborn nature was fought, that the Germans began to show real signs of generally being beaten. The village of Etain was reported cleared up. Hamblain-les-Prez, on the extreme flank, was taken, and the troops moved eastward. But they did not go far, as the Germans in desperation, had damned the river Scarpe at Vitry-en-Artois and flooded the lowlands in this locality. Patrols entered Blies-St. Vaast, which soon was reported entirely captured. From this general locality on the right the British pushed forward. Early in the forenoon airplanes reported no Germans in any number west of Ecourt St. Quentin, which is east of Recourt, and this meant where the British were pushing on and overcoming the diminishing resistance.

Germans Admit Defeat

The first substantial indication that the Germans had been beaten came when the British troops entered Recourt, after having reached the outskirts last night. They had not been in the town for more than a few minutes when the enemy artillery began shelling it heavily from a distance.

The British drove down the Arras-Cambrai road with ease to-day. One of the records of the day was that the headquarters, captured Inchy-en-Artois; another occupied and cleaned up the entire Buissy Switch.

While this was going on a squadron of airplanes, dispersed in large groups of the enemy some distance to the east, managed to break through the protecting German planes and rained bombs down on the western side of the canal, which upset any idea the Germans had of making a determined stand west of the canal.

Enemy Planes Absent

Since that time airplanes report only a few Germans visible for any distance on the western side of the canal, and these observers flew over the whole region at an altitude of only two or three hundred feet.

During the forenoon the British infantry moved forward so rapidly at many places that they completely outran their own artillery and pressed on with only machine guns preceding them, since then, however, the air has been brought up and are pumping shells at the far side of the canal, especially at the point where it is crossed by the Arras-Cambrai road, for here is a bridge, and the concentration of fire is undoubtedly seriously hindering the enemy efforts to get his transports and his guns on the east side.

The men, of course, can cross by scrambling down and up the sides and probably by a few crossings that have been thrown hurriedly over, although at the moment the existence of such crossings is not known.

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Without Food Four Days

Some idea of the German disorganization may be had from the fact that a number of crews of German howitzers captured were standing around their guns, which they had blown up. Others complained that they had had nothing to eat for four days because of the great disorganization and the fact that the enemy forces had to swing southward, then eastward, probably along the direction of the Bapaume-Cambrai road also.

The fighting this afternoon seems to be more vigorous along the Hindenburg line than elsewhere. The British are sweeping along astride it from the point where it joined the Drocourt line at Quantin. Considerable progress is reported and large numbers of Germans have been killed or taken prisoner. Thousands of prisoners are coming into the cages. One army had 6,000 Germans in its cages this forenoon. How many machine guns were captured will not be known for many days, but there were thousands.

Cavalrymen Fight On Foot

The prisoners were of all sorts, including cavalrymen, who had been dismounted and fought as infantry. The hard pressed German commanders took men from anywhere, no matter what they were supposed to be doing, and put them in the line with rifles and machine guns in an effort to stem the tide.

How many dead there are it is impossible even to give an estimate. The scene of the battle in many places shows that the Germans suffered terrible losses. The German formations which opposed the British have been literally torn to pieces, and the fighting still continues along the Hindenburg line and to the south.

In one place along the line of battle eight German divisions, or, rather, four comparatively fresh divisions and the remnants of four other divisions, were fighting against three British di-

visions. An officer from one of these enemy divisions, which was the 20 Guards Reserve, said, however, that his division had been in the fighting for more than a week, and that its effective would number less than a thousand men. In his battalion only himself and twenty-four of his men had survived, he declared. He added that the German losses had been heavier than any they had previously suffered.

American Artillerists Turn Seized Guns Against the Enemy

(By The Associated Press)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Sept. 3 (8 p. m.).—The Americans in the fighting line north of Soissons had a quiet day to-day.

There has been considerable aerial activity in the Vesle region and several combats in the air. One German machine is reported to have been downed by Allied airmen.

The usual artillery activity along the Vesle is being carried out, with the Germans paying particular attention to the town of Fismes, which is held by the Americans.

Fires are reported to have been seen all during last night south of the Aisne in the regions of Dhuizel, Barbonval and Longueval, territory in the hands of the enemy. Late to-day scout airplanes reported additional fires.

During the eastward advance from Juvigny two 105-millimeter guns captured by the Americans were turned by the American artillerists upon the enemy. The big guns were in perfect

working order, and all the Americans had to do was to switch their muzzles in the opposite direction to that in which they had been pointing. A great supply of ammunition for the guns also was taken. Soon after their capture the 105s were roaring against their former owners.

Many German machine guns also are being turned upon the enemy, the Americans operating them having been given a special course of training prior to the battle, practising with guns and ammunition captured north of the Marne.

Just beyond Juvigny during their advance the Americans captured a German dressing station and several wounded Germans and rescued two wounded Americans. The rescued Americans had had little food for two days and virtually no attention. The Americans did not complain, however, as the German wounded were not given much attention either. This was due to the confusion of the retreat and the great numbers of wounded Germans who poured into the station as the Americans advanced.

In this dressing station were found quantities of French lace curtains, which had been cut into strips for bandages; also crêpe paper used for the same purpose. The lace had been taken by the Germans from French homes in various sections, sterilized and medicated, cut into strips and rolled the same as regulation bandages.

French officers who examined the lace said that it was unquestionably of French make. The Germans had evidently been obliged to use bandages of this type because of the shortage of material in Germany.

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The Official Statements

BRITISH

LONDON (NIGHT).—After the heavy defeat inflicted on the enemy yesterday our progress on the battlefield between Péronne and the Seneffe River continued to-day, and our troops reached the general line of Ypres, Beaumont-les-Cambrai, Baralle, Rumacourt and Lecluse.

Hostile rear guards which resisted the advance of our infantry have been captured or driven back with loss, and heavy casualties were inflicted on the retreating German columns by our artillery. Large numbers of the enemy retiring in close formation over the ridge northwest of Equancourt were successfully engaged by our batteries over open sights.

In his hurried retreat quantities of stores and material of all kinds were abandoned by the enemy, and have fallen into our hands.

As a result of a successful operation this morning south of the Lys, English troops have taken Richbourg-St. Vaast and established themselves on the line of La Bassée road and between there and Estaires, which is in our possession. A number of prisoners and a few guns were captured in this attack.

Our posts have been pushed forward slightly in the western outskirts of Lens and east and north of Givenchy-Les-La Bassée. During the night we made progress northwest of Steenwerck and entered Wulverghem.

LONDON (DAY).—Our operations carried out yesterday south of the river Scarpe were completely successful. The enemy was heavily defeated in his prepared defences of the Drocourt-Quantin system, with the result that he is retreating this morning along practically the whole battlefield.

In the course of yesterday's battle in addition to inflicting heavy losses on the enemy we captured 10,000 prisoners.

We are now advancing, and are reported to have entered Pronville, Doignies and Bertincourt.

Canadian troops showed the greatest skill and courage yesterday in storming the Drocourt-Quantin line. These lines had been perfected by the enemy in the last eighteen months. They provided the most formidable obstacle, as they had been furnished with every device of modern engineering.

The enemy had reinforced his defences here to such a degree that on a front of 8,000 yards no less than eleven German divisions were identified.

Undeterred by the strength of his defensive organization, the Canadians, assisted admirably by British troops on their left, carried all before them.

South of the Canadian corps English, Scottish and naval troops of the 17th Corps, under command of Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Fergusson, Bart., K. C. B., K. C. M. G., M. V. O., D. S. O., performed no less a gallant and arduous task in storming the junction of the Drocourt-Quantin and Hindenburg systems.

Those defences were of the most formidable character, but our troops swept over and around them, encircling Quantin from the north, with the result that this important pivot fell into our hands at nightfall. The tank corps again assisted materially in the success of these operations.

Where the Guards counter attacked five times in a vain effort to stem the tide of battle, which was running relentlessly against them.

Localization in the activity of the infantry in the past two days has given the appearance of the relinquishment of the pressure of the flying German lines from the Somme to Soissons. The altered faces of the battle is due to changes in the condition of the ground and tactics, and though the fighting has been confined to comparatively short sectors north of Soissons, north of Noyon and around Neale, engagements of the utmost importance have been in progress, in which the Allies have gained advantages that explain the enormous sacrifices the Germans made to hold them off at these points.

North of Soissons General Mangin's forces after three days of furious combats, in which positions were taken and retaken several times, have pushed forward on the plateau that overlooks the valley of the Ailette behind Chemin des Dames and from where the citadel of Laon, one of the stoutest pillars in the German secondary line of defence, may plainly be seen.

The French and Americans met around Juvigny, the élite of the German army, grenadiers of the Prussian Guard, picked storming battalions, and hardy mountain infantrymen. They defeated them decisively, taking an enormous death toll from their ranks and sending a goodly number of captives to the rear. The Associated Press correspondent saw a column of these prisoners filing back over the plateau to the west, where white wood crosses over fresh graves marked the scene of other recent defeats. Some were young, but all were sturdy, and humiliation and depression showed in their faces rather than the satisfaction exhibited by other prisoners over their final release from the inferno of war.

1,200 Huns Sent to Rear

Each one of these efforts added largely to the losses of the Prussians in wounded as well as in dead, while after each rush a lot more of unwounded prisoners remained in the hands of the French. More than 1,200 Germans were sent to the rear in the course of the battle.

Both tanks and air squadrons contributed to the rout of the Guards. Aviators, flying low over the field, met the attacking forces with a galling machine gun fire and pursued the

FRENCH

PARIS (NIGHT).—Our infantry has crossed the Somme before Epenancourt. Further south our troops have gained a footing in the village of Couvry (Geny?), east of the Canal du Nord, taking 200 prisoners.

East of Noyon we made new progress and reached the outskirts of Salency. The artillery fighting is lively in this region.

In the course of the battle yesterday between the Ailette and the Aisne we took 1,200 prisoners.

An enemy raid in the Violi sector (the Vosges) brought no results.

PARIS (DAY).—During the night there were artillery actions on the front of the Somme and between the Oise and the Aisne. Enemy raids along the Vesle River and in the Vosges region were without result.

GERMAN

BERLIN (DAY).—ARMY GROUPS OF CROWN PRINCE RUPPRECHT AND GENERAL VON BOHLEN. Between Ypres and La Base there have been successful infantry engagements in front of our new positions.

Between the Scarpe and the Somme the British continue their attacks. Southeast of Arras they succeeded in putting in strong, superior forces in thrusting back the infantry line on both sides of the Arras-Cambrai high road. On the line of Etain, the eastern fringe of Dury, east of Cagnicourt, northwest of Quantin and the northern fringe of Noreuil we held the enemy thrust. Enemy attempts, several times repeated, to press further forward over the heights before Dury and east of Cagnicourt against the canal failed, owing to the intervention of our reserves, which were in readiness.

Enemy attacks made on both sides of Bapaume, in part with tanks and in part after the strongest artillery preparation, were repulsed.

North of the Somme, after vigorous engagements, we retained the heights east of Sully-Sailles, Moissans, Aizecourt-le-Haut and the eastern fringe of Péronne.

On both sides of the Nesle-Ham railway line Reserve Infantry Regiment D 271, which especially distinguished itself during recent engagements, yesterday also repulsed repeated French attacks. Apart from this there was only artillery activity between the Somme and the Oise.

After the strongest artillery preparation for several hours the French, supported by Moroccans and Americans, attacked in the afternoon between the Oise and the Aisne. Attacks launched from the plain of the Ailette against Pierremande and Folembray failed under our fire. At isolated places our counter attack drove the enemy back. In a portion of the wood west and south of Coucy-le-Château the enemy pressed back our foremost line somewhat from the Ailette.

Between the Ailette and the Aisne very strong enemy attacks, several times repeated, failed. The Gafde Cuiraissiers and the 8th Dragoons, up to and including yesterday, had repulsed sixteen enemy attacks, and always succeeded in holding the positions entrusted to them.

Yesterday we shot down thirteen enemy balloons and fifty-five airplanes, thirty-six on the Arras battlefield. Twenty-six of these were brought down by the Chaser Squadron No. 3, under the leadership of First Lieutenant Loerzer, who achieved his thirty-fifth aerial victory.

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South of Leuilly French mountains troops crossed the ravine of Fontaine. St. Remy and took the St. Remy Hermitage, giving the French a solid hold on the plateau leading to Laffaux and the road leading from the Hermitage to Terny-Sorny.

Mangin Advances To Point Six Miles North of Soissons

FRENCH ARMY HEADQUARTERS, Sept. 2 (Night).—General Mangin's advance to-day between the Ailette and Aisne rivers is the most important so far. His army has reached Bethuncourt, and also has advanced a mile to the south of Leuilly, about six miles north of Soissons.

The line now passes through the plateau of Bethuncourt to the north of Cray, on the Soissons-Maubourge road. The centre of the plateau is now cleared of the enemy.

Great fires can be observed in the region of the Vauxaillon valley, to the north of Laffaux. These are probably enemy dumps.

British Labor Asks Wilson to Aid Mooney

Congress in England Calls on President to "Grant New Trial" to Convicted Man

DERBY, England, Sept. 3.—The Labor Congress to-day adopted an urgent resolution asking President Wilson to grant a new trial to Thomas J. Mooney, who is under sentence of death in San Francisco, in connection with the dynamite plot in 1916, when a number of persons were killed during the Preparedness Day parade.

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